

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07

TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12

NEA-10 /135 W

-----106035 031811Z /43

R 031618Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6740

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (AHIC)  
FIFTH SESSION--AGENDA AND ISSUES

1. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FROM SECRETARIAT AND GROUP SPOKESMAN INDICATES THAT MEETING WILL BE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO SETTING OF MEETING DATES FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS. COMMODITIES CHIEF (MCINTYRE) INDICATES SECRETARIAT IS ALSO CONTEMPLATING RAISING QUESTION OF FOCUS OF FUTURE COMMODITY MEETINGS. ON COMMON FUND, SECRETARIAT HOPES TO KEEP DISCUSSION OF MEETING DATES OUT OF AHIC WHILE MAKING TENTATIVE PLANS BEHIND THE SCENES TO INSURE DATES ARE AVAILABLE LATER IN SPRING IF NECESSARY. ONLY OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE WHICH MIGHT ARISE, AND THEN MOST LIKELY ONLY WITHIN GROUP B, IS QUESTION RAISED DURING CONSUMER CAUCUS IN RECENT RUBBER MEETING ON ROLE OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IN PREPARATIONS FOR NEGOTIATING CONFERENCES.

2. MCINTYRE CONTINUES TO NURTURE HOPE OF BREAKING COMMODITIES DOWN INTO THREE SEPARATE CATEGORIES. THESE WOULD INCLUDE (1) THOSE WHERE STABILIZATION STILL APPEARS TO BE  
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VIALE OPTION (E.G. JUTE); (2) THOSE FOR WHICH OTHER MEASURES APPEAR TO BE MOST APPROPRIATE AND A DIFFERENT TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT REQUIRED (TROPICAL TIMBER); AND (3) THOSE REQUIRING ONLY REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (HARD FIBRES). MCINTYRE WOULD SEEK ONLY A VERY GENERAL DISCUSSION, IF ANY, AT THIS MEETING, BUT ENVISAGES NO DECISIONS. MISSION OFFICER SUGGESTED MCINTYRE PROCEED VERY CAUTIOUSLY AS MANY

COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS APPEAR AT THIS POINT TO BE NATURALLY GRAVITATING TO SUCH A BREAKDOWN. OPENING DISCUSSION OF IT COULD UNNECESSARILY AROUSE FEARS THAT STABILIZATION HAD BEEN WRITTEN OFF FOR A NUMBER OF COMMODITIES AND LIKEWISE PERHAPS EXACERBATE REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IF AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO IDENTIFY SPECIFICALLY THOSE COMMODITIES WHICH FALL INTO EACH CATEGORY. GUIDANCE REQUESTED: MISSION VIEW IS THAT G-77 WILL WANT TO MINIMIZE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE AND WILL FIND PROPOSAL PREMATURE. USDEL WOULD SUGGEST THAT GROUP B KEEP DISCUSSION GENERAL AND NOT TAKE A DEFINITIVE POSITION. THIS ISSUE MIGHT BE MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION LATER THIS YEAR OR DURING UNCTAD-V WHEN A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE IPC IS UNDERTAKEN. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ADDITIONAL POINTS WHICH USDEL MIGHT RAISE OR FEELS THIS SUGGESTED APPROACH IS EITHER INAPPROPRIATE OR INADEQUATE, FURTHER GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

3. AS TO QUESTION OF SCHEDULING, IT APPEARS THAT THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK SINCE SECRETARIAT IS HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY IN RESHUFFLING VARIOUS MEETINGS TO ACCOMMODATE RUBBER NEGOTIATIONS IN FALL AND IN KEEPING SOME DATES OPEN FOR POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF COMMON FUND. THE ONLY CERTAINTY AT THIS POINT IS THAT PROPOSED JUNE 5-9 CONSUMER MEETING FOR RUBBER IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE. JUNE 12-16 IS NEXT BEST OPTION; JULY 3-7 CAN BE ACCOMMODATED. QUESTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COPPER AND MEAT MEETING, BOTH SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20-24, STILL UP IN AIR. GUIDANCE REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD ADVISE WHETHER US STILL PREFERS SETTING ASIDE TWO SEPARATE MEETING DATES FOR CONSUMER GROUP ON RUBBER AND, IF SO, WHETHER JUNE 12-16 DATE ACCEPTABLE IN LIGHT OF UNAVAILABILITY OF JUNE 5-9 DATES. ON VEGETABLE OILS AND PHOSPHATES, ASSUMPTION IS THAT USDEL WILL SIMPLY ACQUIESCE IN PUTTING ADDITIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS ON SCHEDULE BUT WILL MAKE NO FURTHER COMMENT AS TO ATTENDANCE BY US SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY MADE KNOWN OUR DOUBTS ABOUT NEED FOR SUCH MEETINGS. ONLY GUIDANCE NEEDED IS IF DEPARTMENT FEELS USDEL SHOULD TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN GROUP B IN SEEKING TO HAVE THESE MEETINGS PUT OFF TO AS LATE IN YEAR AS POSSIBLE.

4. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER ANY DELEGATIONS, IN PARTICULAR NORDICS OR EC, PLAN TO BRING QUESTION OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ROLE IN PREPARATIONS FOR NEGOTIATING CONFERENCES BEFORE GROUP B. BOTH GROUPS, ALONG WITH JAPAN, WERE NOT PLEASED WITH US POSITION OPPOSING UNCTAD SECRETARIAT DRAFTING FRAMEWORK ARTICLES FOR RUBBER NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER DELEGATIONS FROM SMALL COUNTRIES SOUGHT SECRETARIAT'S DRAFTING OF ARTICLES AS A MEANS FOR THEM TO FOCUS THE

ATTENTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AN AGREEMENT. THEY FELT THAT BEGINNING FROM SUCH A GENERAL FRAMEWORK, IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO FIT IN THE VARIOUS DETAILS AND INSURE WORKING FROM ONE TEXT RATHER THAN HAVING A PROLIFERATION OF TEXTS. WHILE US DELEGATION SOUGHT TO CONVINCE THESE DELEGATIONS OF SUBSTANTIVE ARGUMENTS REGARDING DIFFICULTIES SECRETARIAT WOULD ENCOUNTER IN PREPARING DRAFT ARTICLES, MOST LEFT THE MEETING CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY COVER FOR A US ATTEMPT TO GUARANTEE SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE NO ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS, A POLICY WHICH A NUMBER OF THEM OPPOSE. GUIDANCE REQUESTED: USDEL WOULD INTEND TO FOCUS DISCUSSION ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND SEEK TO DEFLATE ISSUE AS ONE OF POLICY BY DISCOURAGING ANY

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CONCLUSIONS THAT DECISIONS IN RUBBER HAVE SET A PRECEDENT OR THAT US, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, OPPOSES SECRETARIAT INVOLVEMENT IN ANY FUTURE PREPARATIONS. (MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS FROM DEPARTMENT ON THIS ISSUE EVEN IF IT DOESN'T ARISE IN AHIC SINCE QUESTION MAY COME UP AGAIN SOON IN PREPARATION OF ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR PRODUCER/ CONSUMER FORUM ON COPPER).

5. FURTHER NOTE ON CONSUMER MEETINGS ON RUBBER: ON THE POLICY QUESTION OF SECRETARIAT'S FINANCING AND PROVIDING SERVICES FOR A CONSUMER-ONLY MEETING, MCINTYRE WILL ASK THE AHIC TO TAKE A SPECIFIC DECISION ON THIS POINT. WHILE THE ISSUE OF WHETHER A CONSUMER OR PRODUCER GROUP COULD MEET UNDER UNCTAD AUSPICES WAS RESOLVED BY THE SECRETARIAT'S UNCOVERING A DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES THAT

SUCH MEETINGS ARE APPROPRIATE WHEN RELATED TO A NEGOTIATION, MCINTYRE FEELS IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE AHIC TO ADOPT THIS AS A PROCEDURE UNDER THE IPC. IT WOULD BE SPELLED OUT VERY CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THAT THESE MEETINGS ARE ONLY APPROPRIATE WHERE A NEGOTIATION HAS BEEN CALLED FOR AND IT WOULD NOT SET A PRECEDENT FOR PRODUCER-ONLY OR CONSUMER-ONLY MEETINGS IN THE PREPARATORY STAGES WHEN NO NEGOTIATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE HAD YET BEEN AGREED UPON.

6. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT SINCE THIS MEETING IS LIKELY TO DEAL WITH LITTLE MORE THAN SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, USDEL SHOULD BE LIMITED TO MISSION OFFICERS (BRUNGART AND STREEB) AS IN PREVIOUS TWO MEETINGS. SORENSON

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